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Report of the Governing Council

Twenty-sixth session (21-24 February 2011)

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United Nations Environment Programme

Report of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on the work of its twenty-sixth session

(Nairobi, 21-24 February 2011)

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Note

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Introduction

1. The twenty-sixth session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 21 to 24 February 2011. In keeping with section II of Governing Council decision 25/17 and the subsequent decision taken by the Bureau of the Council/Forum at its meeting in September 2010, the twenty-sixth session was held over four days.

I. Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

2. The session was opened at 10.20 a.m. on Monday, 21 February, by a master of ceremonies. Prior to the delivery of opening statements, a group of Kenyan young people performed an award-winning song entitled "Trash is cash" and presented a video promoting the recycling of waste. In addition, a video presentation on the green economy was shown, featuring ministers and Heads of State supporting the concept of the green economy. Remarks were delivered by Mr. Edward Norton, United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity.

3. Opening statements were then delivered by Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Sustainable Development, Forestry and Environment of the Congo and Acting President of the Governing Council, in place of Mr. Oliver Dulić, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of Serbia and President of the Governing Council, who was unable to attend the current session; Mr. Jamil Ahmad, Secretary of the Governing Council, on behalf of Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Mr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP; and Mr. Mwai Kibaki, President of Kenya.[1]

II. Organization of work (agenda item 2)

A. Attendance

4. The following States members of the Governing Council were represented at the session/forum:[2] Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mozambique, Netherlands, Niger, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Somalia, Spain, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Zambia.

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[1] A fuller account of the discussions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-sixth session, including summaries of the opening and general statements and of the Council/Forum's deliberations on the substantive issues before it, is contained in the proceedings of the session (UNEP/GC/26/19).

[2] The membership of the Governing Council was determined by elections held at the 52nd plenary meeting of the sixty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, on 15 November 2007, and at the 35th plenary meeting of the sixty-fourth session, on 3 November 2009. On 28 July 2010, the General Assembly, acting on a request from the representative of Croatia to the United Nations (A/64/869) contained in a letter of 22 July 2010 announcing that his country would relinquish its seat on the Governing Council for the remainder of its term in favour of Belarus, elected Belarus, as endorsed by the Eastern European States to the Governing Council, for a one-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2011 and expiring on 31 December 2011.

5. The following States not members of the Governing Council but members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency were represented by observers: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Austria, Barbados, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Holy See, Honduras, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Lithuania, Malawi, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

6. An observer for Palestine also participated.

7. The following United Nations bodies, secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented: Asian Institute of Technology-United Nations Environment Programme Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific, Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Ozone Secretariat, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Environment Programme Caribbean Environment Programme/Regional Coordinating Unit, United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan, United Nations High-level Panel on Global Sustainability, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations University.

8. The following specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Bank, World Meteorological Organization.

9. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: African Centre for Technology Studies, African Union Commission, Caribbean Community Secretariat, Commonwealth Secretariat, European Union, Global Environment Facility, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, International Union for Conservation of Nature, League of Arab States.

10. In addition, a number of non-governmental and civil society organizations were represented by observers. A full list of participants was made available as document UNEP/GC.26/INF/24.

B. Election of officers

11. At the 1st plenary meeting of the session, on 21 February, the Council/Forum elected the following officers by acclamation:

President:	Ms. Rosa Aguilar Rivero (Spain)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Zoltan Illes (Hungary) Ms. Liana Bratasida (Indonesia) Ms. Graciela Muslera (Uruguay)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Mauricio Xerinda (Mozambique)

C. Credentials of representatives (agenda item 3)

12. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, the Bureau examined the credentials of the representatives attending the session. Representatives of 54 of the 58 member States attended the session and their credentials were found to be in order. The Bureau so reported to the Council/Forum, which approved the Bureau's report at the 7th plenary meeting, on 24 February 2011.

D. Adoption of the agenda

13. At the 1st plenary meeting, the Council/Forum adopted the following agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Council/Forum at its twenty-fifth session (UNEP/GC.26/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of work:
   (a) Election of officers;
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
   (a) State of the environment;
   (b) Emerging policy issues;
   (c) International environmental governance;
   (d) Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system on environmental matters;
   (e) Coordination and cooperation with major groups;
   (f) Environment and development.
5. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council.
6. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2012–2013 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters.
7. Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:
   (a) Twelfth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
   (b) Twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report.
10. Closure of the session.

E. Organization of the work of the session

14. At the 1st plenary meeting, the Council/Forum considered and approved the organization of work of the session in the light of the recommendations contained in the annotated agenda (UNEP/GC.26/1/Add.1).

15. Pursuant to one of those recommendations, as agreed by the Bureau, it was decided that the Council/Forum would hold ministerial consultations from the afternoon of Monday, 21 February, to the afternoon of Wednesday, 23 February. The focus of those consultations would be on the contribution of UNEP to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the green economy and international environmental governance, under agenda item 4 (b).

16. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the Council/Forum decided to establish, in accordance with rule 60 of its rules of procedure, a committee of the whole. The Committee of the Whole would meet concurrently with the ministerial consultations and would consider agenda items 4 (a) (Policy issues: state of the environment); 4 (c)–(f) (international environmental governance; coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system on environmental matters; coordination and cooperation with major groups; environment and development); 5 (Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council); 6 (Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2012–2013 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters); 7 (Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum: twelfth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum; twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum); and 8 (Other matters).

17. It was further decided at the 1st plenary meeting that the Committee of the Whole would be chaired by Ms. Bratasida. A decision was also made to establish a drafting group to work on draft decisions for possible adoption by the Council/Forum, to be chaired by Mr. Macharia Kamau (Kenya). The Council/Forum also decided to establish a friends of the President group to assist the President in preparing her summary of the ministerial consultations. The group would comprise two representatives from each of the five United Nations regional groups, one representative of the European Union and one representative of the Group of 77 and China.

18. It was further agreed that the Council/Forum would consider agenda items 3 (Credentials of representatives), 9 (Adoption of the report) and 10 (Closure of the session) at the plenary meeting on the afternoon of Thursday, 24 February.

19. The Council/Forum took note of the fact that the session was the first to be conducted in paperless form, with documents made available electronically.

F. Policy statement by the Executive Director

20. At the 1st plenary meeting, the Executive Director delivered a policy statement, a summary of which may be found in the proceedings of the session (UNEP/GC.26/19).

G. Ministerial consultations

21. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on the afternoon of 21 February, the Council/Forum began its consideration of agenda item 4 (b), emerging policy issues, in the form of ministerial consultations, focusing on the themes of the contribution of UNEP to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the green economy and international environmental governance.

22. The ministerial consultations began at the 2nd plenary meeting, when ministers were given a comprehensive update on the status of the international community's preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and activities being undertaken by UNEP in that regard. At the 3rd and 4th plenary meetings, on 22 February, the theme of the green economy was discussed. The theme

of international environmental governance was discussed at the 5th and 6th plenary meetings, on 23 February. The 6th plenary meeting included concurrent round-table discussions that were intended to enable participants to explore the issues more fully in smaller groups.

23. A special ministerial-level lunch meeting on the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development was held on Tuesday, 22 February, to provide a forum for the discussion of the following thematic issues: transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production.

H. Report of the Committee of the Whole

24. The Committee of the Whole held eight meetings, from 21 to 24 February 2011, to consider the agenda items assigned to it. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 24 February, the Council/Forum took note of the report of the Committee of the Whole. The report is set out in annex II to the proceedings of the session (UNEP/GC.26/19).

I. Introduction of the draft decisions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

25. Ms. Regine Hess, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to UNEP and Acting Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, presented to the Council/Forum for its consideration the draft decisions prepared by the Committee, as contained in document UNEP/GC.26/L.1, highlighting the collaborative process by which the draft decisions had been prepared and the challenges that it had entailed.

III. Matters requiring the special attention of the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council

A. President's summary of the ministerial consultations

26. At the 7th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Thursday, 24 February, the President of the Council/Forum presented a draft summary of the views expressed during the consultations on each theme considered during the twenty-sixth session of the Council/Forum. She said that the summary reflected the variety of views expressed during the ministerial consultations, and did not constitute a consensus text.

27. One representative said that his delegation did not share the view of the majority as presented in the President's summary in favour of a transition to a green economy. Another said that the information that had been made available on the green economy was insufficient and that his Government had reservations about the UNEP report *Towards a green economy: pathways to sustainable development and poverty eradication*.

28. The Council/Forum took note of the President's summary, which is set out in annex III to the proceedings of the session (UNEP/GC.26/19).

B. Provisional agendas, dates and venues for the twelfth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

29. By its decision 26/17, the Council/Forum decided to hold its twelfth special session in 2012 from 20 to 22 February, and its twenty-seventh session in 2013 from 18 to 22 February. While the venue of the latter is Nairobi, that of the former will be decided in consultation with the Bureau of the Governing Council and the member States.

C. International environmental governance

30. By its decision 26/1, the Council/Forum invited the President of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in its consideration of the institutional framework for sustainable development to consider the options for broader institutional reform identified in the Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome, and invited the President to transmit the Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome to the Preparatory Committee at its second session and to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

31. By the same decision, the Council/Forum requested the Executive Director, in cooperation with other interested United Nations entities and with extrabudgetary resources, to organize informal meetings in New York for governmental representatives on the Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome in the context of discussions on the institutional framework for sustainable development.

D. World environment situation

32. By its decision 26/2, the Council /Forum requested the Executive Director to facilitate the finalization of the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook process and the summary for policymakers in time to feed into the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012.

E. Chemicals and wastes management

33. By its decision 26/3, the Council/Forum recommended to the Executive Director that the issue of integrated waste management should be further dealt with as a key priority area under the United Nations "Delivering as one" initiative; took note of the initiative by the United Nations Environment Programme to set up a global partnership on waste management; and requested the Executive Director to strengthen the cooperation and coordination within relevant United Nations and other relevant international institutions in the area of waste management and to ensure coherence and complementarity and avoid duplication with relevant work under the United Nations and other international institutions and arrangements, in particular the Basel Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

34. By the same decision the Council /Forum requested the Executive Director to submit input on chemicals and wastes management as part of the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in 2012.

F. Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

35. By its decision 26/4, the Council /Forum decided, based on the request by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/162 of 20 December 2010, without prejudice to the final institutional arrangements for the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and in consultation with all relevant organizations and bodies, in order fully to operationalize the platform, to convene a plenary meeting providing for the full and effective participation of all member States, in particular representatives from developing countries, to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for the platform at the earliest opportunity.

36. By the same decision, the Council/Forum requested the Executive Director, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, to convene the plenary meeting in 2011 and to continue to facilitate any ensuing process to implement the platform until such time as a secretariat was established.

G. Ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production

37. By its decision 26/5, the Council /Forum recognized that the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production could be an important input into the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, and requested the Executive Director to submit a report on the implementation of the decision to the Governing Council at its twelfth special session in anticipation of the Governing Council's contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

H. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2012–2013

38. By its decision 26/9, the Council /Forum approved the programme and support budget for 2012–2013 and appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of $190 million.

I. Enhanced coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group

39. By its decision 26/11, the Council /Forum encouraged the Environment Management Group to prepare a contribution by the United Nations system, identifying existing studies on the green economy, to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

J. Enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster

40. By its decision 26/12, the Council /Forum requested the Executive Director to provide input on the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

K. Promoting South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development

41. By its decision 26/16, the Council/Forum encouraged member States and other Governments to contribute further to the development of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development and invited parties, other Governments, regional organizations and their secretariats, international organizations, United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Environment Programme, Biodiversity Liaison Group members, the Rio conventions, donors, indigenous peoples' organizations, non-governmental organizations and centres of excellence to contribute to the further development of the Multi-Year Plan of Action.

IV. Adoption of decisions

42. At its 7th plenary meeting, the Council/Forum adopted the following decisions:

Decision No.	Title
26/1	International environmental governance
26/2	World environment situation
26/3	Chemicals and wastes management
26/4	Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services
26/5	Ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production

Decision No.	Title
26/6	Organizing the third intergovernmental review meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
26/7	Consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes
26/8	Amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility
26/9	Proposed biennial programme of work and budget for 2012–2013
26/10	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
26/11	Enhanced coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group
26/12	Enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster
26/13	Omnibus decision on reports of the Executive Director
26/14	Global Environment Monitoring System Water Programme
26/15	Strengthening international cooperation on the environmental aspects of emergency response and preparedness
26/16	Promoting South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development
26/17	Provisional agendas, dates and venues for the twelfth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

43. At the time of the adoption of the draft omnibus decision on reports of the Executive Director, one representative expressed the view that the Council/Forum should not adopt decisions the sole purpose of which was to acknowledge the submission of reports by the Executive Director in response to requests from the Council/Forum. Such decisions, he said, were unnecessary and took up valuable time that was needed for the conduct of more urgent business.

V. Policy issues (agenda items 4 (a) (State of the environment), 4 (c) (International environmental governance), 4 (d) (Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system on environmental matters), 4 (e) (Coordination and cooperation with major groups), 4 (f) (Environment and development))

VI. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council (agenda item 5)

VII. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters (agenda item 6)

VIII. Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (agenda item 7)

44. Agenda items 4–7 (save for sub-item 4 (b), which was the subject of the ministerial consultations referred to above in section G of chapter II) were considered by the Committee of the Whole. The report on the deliberations of the Committee is contained in annex II to the proceedings of the session (UNEP/GC.26/19).

45. The decisions adopted by the Council/Forum on the items are set out in the annex to the present report and those requiring the special attention of the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council are listed in chapter III above.

IX. Other matters (agenda item 8)

46. No other matters were discussed.

X. Adoption of the report (agenda item 9)

47. The proceedings of the session (UNEP/GC.26/19) were adopted by the Council/Forum at its 7th plenary meeting, on 24 February 2011, on the basis of the draft proceedings which had been circulated and on the understanding that the secretariat and the Rapporteur would be entrusted with their finalization.

XI. Closure of the session (agenda item 10)

48. Following closing statements and the customary exchange of courtesies, the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was declared closed at 6.45 p.m. on Thursday, 24 February 2011.

Annex

Decisions adopted by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-sixth session

Decision No.	Title
26/1	International environmental governance
26/2	World environment situation
26/3	Chemicals and wastes management
26/4	Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services
26/5	Ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production
26/6	Organizing the third intergovernmental review meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
26/7	Consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes
26/8	Amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility
26/9	Proposed biennial programme of work and budget for 2012–2013
26/10	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
26/11	Enhanced coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group
26/12	Enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster
26/13	Omnibus decision on reports of the Executive Director
26/14	Global Environment Monitoring System Water Programme
26/15	Strengthening international cooperation on the environmental aspects of emergency response and preparedness
26/16	Promoting South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development
26/17	Provisional agendas, dates and venues for the twelfth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

Decision 26/1: International environmental governance

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 25/4 of 20 February 2009, on international environmental governance, in which it established a consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives that in accordance with its mandate presented a set of options for improving international environmental governance[3] to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eleventh special session, with a view to providing inputs to the General Assembly,

Recalling also its decision SS.XI/1 of 26 February 2010, on international environmental governance, in which it further decided to establish a regionally representative, consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives (the consultative group), which was requested to consider the broader reform of the international environmental governance system, building on the set of options but remaining open to new ideas,

[3] UNEP/GCSS.XI/4.

Expressing thanks to the Governments of Kenya and Finland for hosting the meetings of the consultative group in Nairobi and Espoo, respectively, and gratitude to the Minister of Environment of Finland and the Minister of Environment and Mineral Resources of Kenya for co-chairing the consultative group and appreciation to the Executive Director for serving as adviser to the group,

Noting that inputs to the consultative group were made by civil society groups through the secretariat and by the United Nations system through the Environment Management Group and through the participation of designated representatives of relevant United Nations agencies at meetings of the consultative group,

Having considered that strengthening the global authoritative voice, in addition to other voices, for the environment is a key outcome of the international environmental governance reform process, providing credible, coherent and effective leadership for environmental sustainability under the overall framework of sustainable development,

Stressing the importance of securing political momentum for and efficient follow-up to the international environmental governance process,

1. *Welcomes* the results of the consultative group as contained in the outcome document of the consultative group's meetings, known as the "Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome";[4]

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of incremental changes identified in the set of options[5] and requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to submit a draft decision for consideration by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twelfth special session on those incremental improvements requiring a Governing Council decision as indicated in that report;

3. *Invites* the President of the Governing Council to transmit the Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development at its second session and to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session;

4. *Invites* the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in its consideration of the institutional framework for sustainable development, to consider the options for broader institutional reform identified in the Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome as a contribution to strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development by improving international environmental governance;

5. *Also invites* the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development at its second session to initiate a full analysis of the financial, structural and legal implications and comparative advantages of the options identified in the Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome, using the expertise of relevant United Nations system entities, including the United Nations Environment Programme and relevant stakeholders and major groups eligible to participate in the Preparatory Committee;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director, in cooperation with other interested United Nations entities and with extrabudgetary resources, to organize informal meetings in New York for governmental representatives on the Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome in the context of discussions on the institutional framework for sustainable development;

7. *Also requests* the Executive Director to provide a report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twelfth special session, in 2012;

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[4] UNEP/GC.26/18.

[5] UNEP/GC.26/3.

8. *Decides* to assess the progress achieved on international environmental governance at the twelfth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in 2012.

7th meeting
24 February 2011

Decision 26/2: World environment situation

The Governing Council,

Pursuing its functions and responsibilities as outlined in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, including to keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance are prioritized and receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments, and to promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information,

Recalling its decisions 22/1 of 7 February 2003 on early warning, assessment and monitoring, 23/6 of 25 February 2005 on keeping the world environmental situation under review, SS.X/5 of 22 February 2008 on the Global Environment Outlook: environment for development, and 25/2 of 20 February 2009 on the world environmental situation,

Noting the findings contained in a number of environmental assessment reports and publications released since the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in particular those prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme in cooperation with partners and presented in the report of the Executive Director on the state of the environment and the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing substantive environmental challenges,[6]

Noting also the findings of scientific environmental assessments conducted between 2009 and 2011,[7] including the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in that period and earlier,

Expressing concern that the documented environmental degradation and widespread changes resulting from human activity together with natural processes and the loss of ecosystem services are barriers to the attainment of internationally agreed sustainable development goals,

Welcoming with appreciation efforts by the United Nations Environment Programme to increase the impact of its scientific assessments by improving their coherence and scientific rigour and to build regional and national capacities for environmental data collection, information and assessment, performed in cooperation with other United Nations entities, national Governments, non-governmental organizations and other partners,

Recognizing that a core mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme is to keep under review the world environmental situation and provide policy-relevant guidance in addressing emerging environmental problems in response to the findings of key scientific assessments, and that the United Nations Environment Programme, through the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility, in addition to its mandate for providing scientific and technological advice to the Global Environment Facility as a financial mechanism of global conventions, is responsible for identifying emerging environmental issues,

[6] UNEP/GC.26/4.
[7] UNEP/GC.26/INF/13.

Recalling section III of its decision 25/2, by which it called for a set of requirements for a migration to targeted assessments on thematic priority areas supported by a UNEP-Live enabling framework, section II of its decision 25/2 on improvements to the international environmental assessment landscape and section I A of its decision 22/1 on strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Mindful of the needs articulated in the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, such as capacity-building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to improve the management of environmental data and information for environmental assessment, reporting and early warning,

Welcoming the report submitted by the Executive Director in response to section III of decision 25/2,[8]

I

Impact of integrated environmental assessments

1. *Urges* Governments to promote, as appropriate, the use of integrated environmental assessments reporting on the state of the environment as regular sources of information for relevant national and international policy processes to strengthen the scientific basis of environmental management and decision-making and to raise general awareness of emerging environmental issues;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) Through the programme of work, to continue efforts to improve the coherence of assessments through the application of consistent and appropriate methodologies and to improve their scientific rigour through consistent, rigorous and appropriate review processes to assist in developing scientific assessment processes that are credible, relevant and legitimate to enhance their impact and to strengthen the capacities of countries;

(b) To assist countries in capacity development, in line with the Bali Strategic Plan as appropriate, through the programme of work, to use global knowledge and experience in scientific assessments, notably the customization of global methodologies to other scales of implementation such as the national and city levels, to assist countries in building their capacity in the use of national and local data and to support countries in identifying key environmental policy issues that require scientific research;

II

Future assessment of environmental change over the period 2012–2013

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director through the programme of work:

(a) To continue to conduct comprehensive integrated and scientifically credible global and thematic environmental assessments, avoiding duplication and building on continuing assessment work, to support decision-making processes at all levels, in the light of the continuing need for up-to-date, scientifically credible, policy-relevant information on environmental change worldwide, including analyses of cross-cutting issues;

[8] UNEP/GC.26/4/Add.1.

(b) To engage all relevant stakeholders in conducting integrated global and thematic environmental assessments to support and strengthen further their scientific credibility, policy relevance and legitimacy;

(c) To undertake policy-relevant integrated global and thematic assessments of environmental change in accordance with the option that embeds the global assessment within the framework of the medium-term strategy;

(d) To facilitate the finalization of the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook process and the summary for policymakers in time to feed into the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012;

4. *Urges* Governments to follow up on the work initiated with the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment by building their capacity and conducting new assessments of ecosystems and biodiversity and by using the results of the existing assessments to establish priorities for development and environmental protection;

5. *Encourages* Governments to support assessments of freshwater resources, both surface and groundwater, and land degradation and to take into account the critical role of ecosystems and biodiversity in food security and sustainable food production systems;

6. *Invites* the Executive Director, by engaging appropriate institutions, research networks and other partners, to continue the assessment by the United Nations Environment Programme of short-lived climate forcers and to keep under review emerging science and to update governments, international organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate;

7. *Calls upon* Governments in a position to do so and relevant institutions to provide extrabudgetary resources for technical cooperation and capacity-building to support assessment initiatives;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in implementation of this initiative to the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session, in 2013;

III

International assessment landscape

9. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to availability of resources, to strengthen the assistance provided to developing countries in conducting environmental assessments and acting on their findings;

10. *Invites* the Executive Director to initiate discussions with the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, and other competent United Nations bodies as appropriate, regarding the potential role of the United Nations Environment Programme in providing technical and scientific support for the first cycle of the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects;

IV

UNEP-Live

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to proceed with the development of the UNEP-Live platform and:

(a) To present the pilot proof-of-concept phase of a UNEP-Live platform, in line with the United Nations Internet-based data access system (UNdata), consisting of an interactive web application with

supporting data management capacities able to present historic near-real-time data and indicators on a limited number of environmental themes, to the Governing Council at its twelfth special session, in 2012;

(b) To mobilize partnerships and institutional and technical networks in the non-governmental and private sectors to provide technical assistance for the development of the UNEP-Live platform;

(c) To work with countries and relevant regional and thematic networks to agree on a set of priority environmental data and indicators to be shared within UNEP-Live;

(d) To present a detailed set of requirements and costing of resources needed for the development of a more elaborate version of the UNEP-Live platform to the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session, in 2013.

12. *Also requests* the Executive Director to develop and maintain a web-based platform to present information on the status of the international environmental assessment landscape;

13. *Invites* Governments to engage in the development of the pilot UNEP-Live platform, to make available the necessary data, information and indicators on priority environmental issues and to engage national institutions as distributed participants in the platform;

14. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide an interim report on the status of the UNEP-Live platform to the Governing Council at its twelfth special session, in 2012.

7th meeting
24 February 2011

Decision 26/3: Chemicals and wastes management

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[9] and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling also its decisions 18/12 of 26 May 1995, 19/13 of 7 February 1997, 20/23 of 4 February 1999, SS.VII/3 of 15 February 2002, 22/4 of 7 February 2003, 23/9 of 25 February 2005, SS.IX/1 of 9 February 2006, 24/3 of 9 February 2007 and 25/5 of 20 February 2009 concerning global policies related to chemicals management and the development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management,

Recalling further its decisions 24/5 of 9 February 2007 and 25/8 of 20 February 2009 on waste management,

Acknowledging the widespread concern over the serious adverse effects of hazardous substances and wastes on human health and the environment,

Noting that work on chemicals and waste management will be carried out as part of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme, particularly the subprogrammes on harmful substances and hazardous wastes and on resource efficiency,

Recognizing the need to take into consideration countries' differing circumstances, developmental priorities and capacities, including technical and financial capabilities,

Confirming that waste management poses a serious challenge, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and stressing the need for international organizations to undertake enhanced, more focused and coordinated actions to fill current gaps in the support given to efforts by developing countries,

[9] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Noting the significance of partnerships underpinned by conclusive scientific evidence,

Mindful of the work under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, in addition to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury,

Aware of the need to ensure coherence and complementarity and avoid duplication of activities,

Mindful of the concern of African countries regarding the continued export of products and wastes containing hazardous substances to those countries,

Taking into account that most of the vulnerable populations exposed to hazardous substances live in developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Acknowledging with appreciation the response of the Joint Environment Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to the deaths of children from lead poisoning in Nigeria and other countries,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on chemicals and waste management,[10]

I

Lead and cadmium

1. *Acknowledges* the progress and efforts made on lead and cadmium, including actions taken to finalize the reviews of scientific information on those metals,[11] in particular the actions taken to fill the data and information gaps in accordance with section II of decision 25/5 and other actions taken under the project addressing risks posed by exposure to lead and cadmium of the United Nations Environment Programme subprogramme on harmful substances and hazardous wastes;[12]

2. *Also acknowledges* the need for additional work to fill information gaps;

3. *Notes* that there remains a need for a continued focus on reducing the risks posed by lead and cadmium;

4. *Takes note* of the studies on the possible effects on human health and the environment of the trade of products containing lead, cadmium and mercury in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia and the Pacific;[13]

5. *Also takes note* of the key scientific findings and the identified data gaps of the 2010 final review of the scientific information on lead and of the 2010 final review of the scientific information on cadmium;

6. *Acknowledges* the efforts made by Governments and others to tackle the risks posed by lead and cadmium, in particular to phase out the use of lead in gasoline through the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, the initial actions under the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in

[10] UNEP/GC.26/5/Rev.1 and UNEP/GC.26/8.
[11] UNEP/GC.26/INF/11/Add.1 and UNEP/GC.26/INF/11/Add.2.
[12] UNEP/GC.26/INF/11/Add.5.
[13] UNEP/GC.26/INF/11/Add.3 and UNEP/GC.26/INF/11/Add.4.

Paints, regional and national legal actions to limit the content of lead and cadmium in, among other things, toys, jewellery, batteries, electric and electronic equipment and vehicles, and other initiatives and actions implemented within the United Nations Environment Programme, and urges Governments to continue participating in and contributing to these initiatives;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to promote and facilitate work in relation to the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles and the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints while working in close cooperation and coordination with Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in coordination with Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders as appropriate, and subject to the availability of resources, to continue activities on lead and cadmium at all levels, especially in developing countries, particularly in Africa, and countries with economies in transition, including activities such as capacity-building and awareness-raising in relation to the information contained in the reviews of scientific information on lead and cadmium and the environmental and human health problems associated with exposure to these two metals, the initiative to coordinate global efforts to achieve the environmentally sound management of lead and cadmium batteries throughout their life cycles, and the deepening of the scientific basis of existing studies;

9. *Notes* that further action is needed to tackle the challenges posed by lead and cadmium and encourages further efforts by Governments and others to continue reducing the risks to human health, in particular to children and other vulnerable populations, and to the environment from lead and cadmium throughout the life cycles of these substances, including action to promote the use of lead-free and cadmium-free alternatives, where appropriate, and recognizing the specific environmental, economic and social conditions of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

10. *Urges* Governments and private entities to take measures to promote the environmentally sound management of products, wastes and contaminated sites containing lead and cadmium;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources and building on existing structures, to initiate a partnership on lead and cadmium in cooperation with Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

12. *Also requests* the Executive Director, coordinating with stakeholders as appropriate, to include available information in the clearing-house mechanism of the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management on the possibility of replacing lead or cadmium with less hazardous substances or techniques and on techniques for emission abatement from reviews, subject to the availability of resources and for a test period of two years, and encourages Governments and others to submit such information to the clearing-house mechanism;

13. *Invites* the International Conference on Chemicals Management to take into account, at its third session, the information provided in the scientific reviews on lead and cadmium and to consider how the risks from those metals should be reduced at the national, regional and global levels;

14. *Invites* Governments and others in a position to do so to provide extrabudgetary resources to support the implementation of the present decision in relation to lead and cadmium;

II

Mercury

15. *Reaffirms* the mandate set out in section III of decision 25/5 for the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury;

16. *Acknowledges* the progress made by the committee at its first two sessions;

17. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to provide support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enable them to participate effectively in the committee's work;

18. *Welcomes* the confirmation at the committee's second session that the diplomatic conference for the adoption of the instrument will be convened in Japan;

19. *Acknowledges* the progress made by the United Nations Environment Programme mercury programme, including under the Global Mercury Partnership and other initiatives, urges Governments and other stakeholders to continue to support and contribute to the Global Mercury Partnership, and urges all partners to continue their efforts to take immediate steps to reduce risks from mercury exposure;

20. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake specific actions in the context of the Global Mercury Partnership to strengthen the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to initiate or further develop their national inventories of mercury;

21. *Invites* Governments and others in a position to do so to provide extrabudgetary resources to support the implementation of the present decision in relation to mercury;

III

Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

22. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and the progress made in implementing the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, stresses the importance of its implementation and further development and welcomes the continued leadership of the United Nations Environment Programme in that regard;

23. *Urges* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to implement the Strategic Approach, particularly in relation to emerging policy issues and those elements of its programme of work related to the environmental aspects of the Strategic Approach, including mainstreaming activities and the assessment of the economic and social costs of unsound chemicals management, together with the assessment of economic instruments that internalize the external costs related to chemicals, to be reflected in the first Global Chemicals Outlook report, to be published in early 2012;

24. *Welcomes* efforts to enhance the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, in particular the development of the health sector strategy called for by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session and the elaboration of environment and health linkages in response to the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa and the Luanda Commitment on its implementation;

25. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and others in a position to do so to contribute financially and in kind to the

implementation of the Strategic Approach, including in support of the Quick Start Programme, the Strategic Approach secretariat and the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

IV

Waste management, including management of electrical and electronic waste

26. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide further assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to develop and strengthen the national implementation of an integrated waste management approach through the programme of work and budget;

27. *Also requests* the Executive Director to support Governments in enhancing access to energy in rural areas through the conversion of waste agricultural biomass into energy, taking into consideration national experiences and technologies from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and through the development of guidance materials, including on public-private partnerships, and capacity-building activities in the field of greenhouse-gas mitigation, in particular through recycling and, where appropriate, by converting waste to energy, through the programme of work and budget;

28. *Further requests* the Executive Director to provide more intensive capacity-building and demonstration projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in particular in urban areas and in the field of electrical and electronic waste ("e-waste"), aimed at optimizing waste prevention, the recycling and recovery of waste and the efficient use of resources and materials at the local level, including through what is commonly known as the "3Rs" (reduce, reuse and recycle), consistent with the provisions of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and complementary to their capacity-building work, through the programme of work and budget;

29. *Requests* the Executive Director further to enhance cooperation and coordination between all relevant United Nations bodies, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, the Basel Convention regional centres, the "Solving the e-waste problem" initiative and other international institutions for the better implementation of the present decision and to seek to avoid possible duplication of activities;

30. *Recommends* to the Executive Director that the issue of integrated waste management should be further dealt with as a key priority area under the United Nations "Delivering as one" initiative;

31. *Takes note* of the initiative by the United Nations Environment Programme to set up a global partnership on waste management and requests the Executive Director:

(a) To continue to consult widely on the terms of reference for this partnership, including on the objectives, the organizational structure, the work programme (which includes e-waste as a one of the priority areas), and business planning with indicators of progress;

(b) To broaden the information platform so as to collect and disseminate information related to waste management;

(c) To focus the work of the partnership on the waste management needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(d) To strengthen the cooperation and coordination with relevant United Nations and other relevant international institutions in the area of waste management;

(e) To build upon experiences of other partnerships developed under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme, especially in terms of structure, tools and functions;

(f) To ensure coherence and complementarity and avoid duplication with relevant work under the United Nations and other international institutions and arrangements, in particular the Basel Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

32. *Notes* the role of the International Environmental Technology Centre;

33. *Calls upon* Governments to consider improving waste prevention and management, including in the field of e-waste, as a central objective when adopting and developing their own national sustainable development strategies, as appropriate;

34. *Invites* Governments and relevant organizations to provide extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of the present decision in supporting the United Nations Environment Programme and other entities, including the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the Basel Convention regional centres;

V

Final provisions

35. *Requests* the Executive Director to present a report on progress in the implementation of the present decision concerning lead and cadmium, mercury and waste management to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-seventh session;

36. *Also requests* the Executive Director to present a report on progress in the implementation of the present decision in relation to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twelfth special session;

37. *Further requests* the Executive Director to submit input on chemicals and waste management as part of the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in 2012.

7th meeting
24 February 2011

Decision 26/4: Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

The Governing Council,

Recalling its main functions and responsibilities set out in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, under which the Governing Council is, among other things, to promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowled and information and, as appropriate, to the technical aspects of the formulation and implementat of environmental programmes within the United Nations system,

Taking note of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its follow-up process, the consultative process towards an international mechanism of scientific expertise on biodiversity decision IX/15 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recalling its decision SS.XI/4 of 26 February 2010,

Recognizing the need to strengthen and improve the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being through the establishment of a science-policy platform,

Taking note of decision X/11 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and decision 185 EX/43 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, by which both bodies welcomed the establishment of an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 65/162 of 20 December 2010,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services,[14]

1. *Endorses* the outcomes of the third and final ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 11 June 2010;

2. *Decides*, based on the request by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/162 of 20 December 2010, without prejudice to the final institutional arrangements for the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and in consultation with all relevant organizations and bodies, in order fully to operationalize the platform, to convene a plenary meeting providing for the full and effective participation of all member States, in particular representatives from developing countries, to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for the platform at the earliest opportunity;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, to convene the plenary meeting in 2011 and to continue to facilitate any ensuing process to implement the platform until such time as a secretariat is established;

4. *Invites* the Executive Director to submit an offer of interest to be considered along with other offers and subject to the procedures agreed during the plenary meeting, signifying the interest of the United Nations Environment Programme to host or otherwise support the secretariat of the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services;

5. *Urges* Governments and invites relevant organizations and non-governmental donors in a position to do so to provide extrabudgetary financial resources and other contributions to facilitate the plenary meeting that will support the platform's operationalization, including the full and effective participation of representatives from developing countries per General Assembly resolution 65/162 of 20 December 2010;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present decision and its financial and administrative implications to the Governing Council at its twelfth special session.

7th meeting
24 February 2011

[14] UNEP/GC.26/6.

Decision 26/5: Ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production

The Governing Council,

Recalling Agenda 21,[15] adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which in its paragraph 4.8 calls for action to meet the objective of promoting patterns of consumption and production that reduce environmental stress and meet the basic needs of humanity,

Recalling also paragraphs 2, 14 and 15 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[16]

Recalling further Governing Council decision 22/6 of 7 February 2003,

Recognizing that resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production are one of the six cross-cutting priorities and objectives of the United Nations Environment Programme's medium-term strategy for the period 2010–2013, which is aimed at providing strategic direction to the Programme's activities in all areas,

Commending the progress made since the twenty-second session of the Governing Council in advancing the sustainable consumption and production agenda through the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme, notably through its subprogramme on resource efficiency, and through the activities of the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production,

Acknowledging the numerous and diverse sustainable consumption and production initiatives under way at the national, regional and international levels, many of which have received financial and technical support from the United Nations Environment Programme and the Marrakech Process,

Welcoming the support demonstrated for the development of a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighteenth session, in 2010, and also welcoming the recognition by the Commission of the work of the Marrakech Process and its task forces,

Welcoming also the strengthened collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs during the current cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and expressing support for the increased participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in preparations for and the implementation of the outcomes of the Commission's nineteenth session,

Taking note of the Chair's summary of the high-level intersessional meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development on a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, held in Panama in January 2011, as an input into the intergovernmental preparatory meeting for the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to be held from 28 February to 4 March 2011, and to the nineteenth session itself, to be held from 2 to 13 May 2011,

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[15] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No.E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

[16] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Acknowledging that further progress in achieving sustainable consumption and production requires a more coherent and sustained approach that, among other things, provides policies and tools for implementation, access to information and participation, and capacity-building to enable relevant stakeholders to respond in the most appropriate and efficient way to regional and national priorities and needs, to scale up and build linkages between relevant initiatives and actions within the United Nations family and other stakeholders, and to channel resources effectively,

1. *Invites* the Executive Director to build upon and strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme's existing activities and initiatives with governmental institutions and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, in promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns;

2. *Invites* support for Aichi Biodiversity Target 4 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to that Convention in decision X/2, which target is that, by 2020 at the latest, Governments, businesses and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits;

3. *Supports* the development of a concise, ambitious, practical and action-oriented 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production that aims at responding to national, regional and global needs, provides appropriate institutional arrangements and encourages the broad participation and involvement of stakeholders and effectiveness, efficiency and coherence within and beyond the United Nations system, based on the most effective and successful features of the reviewed models of cooperation in other fields;

4. *Invites* the Commission on Sustainable Development to finalize and adopt at its nineteenth session a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production and requests the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with other relevant agencies, to enhance coordination and coherence in its implementation;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) To ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme continues to play an active and co-leading role with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the development of a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production in all its dimensions such as objectives, institutional arrangements and priority programmes;

(b) To offer to take a lead role in the implementation of a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production;

(c) To take the necessary measures for the United Nations Environment Programme to play a lead role in the implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes;

(d) Directly to support implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes in programme areas where the United Nations Environment Programme has particular expertise;

6. *Encourages* Governments to participate actively in the finalization of a sound and effective 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production during the intergovernmental preparatory meeting for the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and the nineteenth session itself, and to support its subsequent implementation to promote a shift to sustainable consumption and production;

7. *Invites* Governments and others in a position to do so to provide financial and technical assistance and capacity-building through public and private efforts to support the implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, once adopted;

8. *Recognizes* that the 10-year framework of programmes could be an important input to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit a report on the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twelfth special session in anticipation of the Governing Council's contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

7th meeting
24 February 2011

Decision 26/6: Organizing the third intergovernmental review meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS.XI/7, which pertained to, among other things, the outcomes of the World Ocean Conference held in Manado, Indonesia, in May 2009, and by which it requested the Executive Director to extend United Nations Environment Programme cooperation and engagement with other United Nations agencies to support the implementation of the Manado Ocean Declaration,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 65/150 of 20 December 2010, on the protection of coral reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development, by which, among other things, the General Assembly urged States, within their national jurisdictions, and competent international organizations, within their mandates, to take all practical steps at all levels to protect coral reefs and related ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods and development,

Recalling the requirement, as stated in paragraph 13 (c) of the Washington Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,[17] periodically to review the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report of the Executive Director on the implementation of decision SS.XI/7 on oceans,[18] which includes information on work undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme to protect marine and coastal ecosystems, especially through its marine and coastal strategy, the Regional Seas Programme and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

2. *Invites* Governments and international and regional financial institutions to make coordinated efforts to support developing countries in implementing marine and coastal initiatives, including within the United Nations Environment Programme, at the national, regional and global levels;

3. *Encourages* the Executive Director to consider extending the support of the United Nations Environment Programme to the expert workshop on the role of marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems in adaptation to and mitigation of climate change impacts, as proposed in paragraph 77 of decision X/29 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as a means of implementing relevant aspects of the present decision and paragraph 2 of decision SS.XI/7;

[17] UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/6, annex II.
[18] UNEP/GC.26/10.

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to proceed with organizing the third session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, working to ensure that participation is as broad as possible, and to that end urges all Governments to be actively involved in the intergovernmental review process and, where possible, to make financial contributions to defray the costs associated with that meeting;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to engage the technical expertise and services of an international maritime body such as the International Maritime Organization, noting that the International Maritime Organization's activities with regard to shipping can play a vital role in the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities through its activities in relation to seas and marine protection.

7th meeting
24 February 2011

Decision 26/7: Consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS.XI/8 of 26 February 2010 and the need for heightened efforts to increase the political priority accorded to the sound management of chemicals and wastes and the increased need for sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible financing for the chemicals and wastes agenda,

Recalling also the request in that decision to the Executive Director to continue leading the consultative process and to report on the progress made and the direction of the process,

Recalling further the request in that decision to the Executive Director to launch, in collaboration with relevant partners, initiatives to raise awareness of the importance of the sound management of chemicals and wastes through various avenues, including the media and key international opportunities such as intergovernmental meetings and public events at both the national and international levels,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 65/162 of 20 December 2010, by which the General Assembly welcomed the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes and expressed support for further efforts through the United Nations Environment Programme to continue such discussions, in cooperation and coordination among the three chemicals and wastes conventions and to support Governments in their efforts to implement, comply with and enforce these multilateral environmental agreements,

Having considered the progress report submitted by the Executive Director on the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes and, in particular, the information on the third meeting, held in Pretoria, South Africa, on 10 and 11 January 2011,[19]

1. *Acknowledges* the progress made and the work carried out to date by the United Nations Environment Programme regarding the consultative process;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to provide support for the consultative process, as called for at the third meeting in the consultative process and described in the report of the Executive Director on the outcome of the third meeting;[20]

[19] UNEP/GC.26/11 and Add.1.
[20] UNEP/GC.26/11/Add.1.

3. *Reiterates* its invitation to Governments and other interested parties, including the private sector, to provide financial and in kind support for the process and for awareness-raising initiatives;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit a final report to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twelfth special session on the implementation of decision SS.XI/8 and of the present decision.

7th meeting
24 February 2011

Decision 26/8: Amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS.IV/1 of 18 June 1994 on the adoption of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility,

Recalling also its decision 22/19 of 7 February 2003 on amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, which included land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, and persistent organic pollutants as new focal areas of the Global Environment Facility,

Recalling further its decision 24/13 of 9 February 2007 on an amendment to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility relating to the location of meetings of the Council of the Global Environment Facility,

Recalling the approval in May 2010 by the Fourth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility of amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility relating to the availability of the Global Environment Facility to serve as a financial mechanism for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and to the appointment and term of the Chief Executive Officer/Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility under paragraph 21 of the Instrument,

Having taken note of the report of the Executive Director[21] and the supporting material,[22]

1. *Decides* to adopt the amendment to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility by which the Global Environment Facility will be made available to serve as a financial mechanism for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

2. *Also decides* to adopt the amendment to paragraph 21 of the Instrument relating to the appointment and term of the Chief Executive Officer/Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility, by which the text

> "The CEO shall be appointed to serve for three years on a full time basis by the Council on the joint recommendation of the Implementing Agencies. The CEO may be reappointed by the Council. The CEO may be removed by the Council only for cause."

will be replaced with:

[21] UNEP/GC.26/12.
[22] UNEP/GC.26/INF/15.

"The CEO shall be appointed to serve for four years on a full time basis by the Council. The CEO may be reappointed by the Council for one additional four year term.";

3. *Invites* the Executive Director to consider ways of enhancing the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme, as the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment, to strengthen its role as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to transmit the present decision to the Chief Executive Officer/Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility.

7th meeting
24 February 2011

Decision 26/9: Proposed biennial programme of work and budget for 2012–2013

The Governing Council,

Having considered the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2012-2013[23] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[24]

1. *Approves* the programme of work for the biennium 2012–2013 taking into account the relevant decisions of the Governing Council;

2. *Also approves* appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of 190.962 million United States dollars, of which a maximum of 122.310 million United States dollars is allocated to cover post costs for the purposes indicated in the following table:

Environment Fund programme of work and budget for the biennium 2012–2013 (thousands of United States dollars)

A. Executive direction and management	**9 041**
B. Programme of work	**165 500**
1. Climate change	30 788
2. Disasters and conflicts	10 454
3. Ecosystem management	36 226
4. Environmental governance	41 622
5. Harmful substances and hazardous waste	19 543
6. Resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production	26 867
C. Fund programme reserve	**6 365**
D. Programme support	**10 055**
Total	**190 962**

3. *Welcomes* the extensive consultations that have taken place between the Executive Director and the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the preparation of the draft programme of work and budget for the biennium 2012–2013;

[23] UNEP/GC.26/13.
[24] UNEP/GC.26/13/Add.1.

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to hold consultations for the preparation of all future programmes of work and budgets;

5. *Acknowledges* the progress on the implementation of the medium-term strategy, as presented in the progress performance report;[25]

6. *Authorizes* the Executive Director, with a view to ensuring better conformity with the practices in other United Nations bodies, to reallocate resources between budget lines up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the appropriations to which the resources are reallocated;

7. *Also authorizes* the Executive Director, if necessary, to reallocate funds in excess of 10 per cent and up to 20 per cent of an appropriation in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

8. *Further authorizes* the Executive Director to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the level of Environment Fund allocations to bring it into line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations;

9. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million United States dollars for Environment Fund activities for the biennium 2014–2015;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to apply a prudent approach to the management of the resources of the Environment Fund, including through the careful management of contractual arrangements;

11. *Notes* that in recent bienniums an increasing share of the Environment Fund has been allocated to post costs, resulting in a reduced share of Environment Fund resources being devoted to non-post costs;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director to take the steps necessary to increase the Environment Fund resources that are allocated to non-post costs, and to report half-yearly to Governments through the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the progress made;

13. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue to shift emphasis from the delivery of outputs to the achievement of results, ensuring that United Nations Environment Programme managers at all levels take responsibility for the achievement of programme objectives and the efficient and transparent use of resources to that end, subject to United Nations processes of review, evaluation and oversight;

14. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report to Governments, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on a yearly basis, and to the Governing Council at its regular and special sessions, on the progress made in respect of each of the subprogrammes and their relevant expected accomplishments and on the execution of the budget of the Environment Fund, including voluntary contributions, expenditures and reallocations of appropriations or adjustments of allocations;

15. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to streamline reporting to Governments through the Committee of Permanent Representatives by merging progress reporting on administrative and budgetary matters with programme performance reporting;

16. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide regular briefings to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the programme and budget performance of each subprogramme to enable the Committee to perform its monitoring task adequately;

17. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure that earmarked contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme, apart from those for which the United Nations

[25] UNEP/GC.26/INF/6/Add.1.

Environment Programme merely acts as treasurer, are used to fund activities that are in line with the programme of work;

18. *Takes note* of the information document on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements that it administers[26] and requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the relevant multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, the United Nations Board of Auditors, the Office of Legal Affairs and all relevant bodies, to address in a progress report, which includes input and commentary from the multilateral environmental agreements, the issues of accountability and the financial and administrative arrangements, including their legal bases, between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements that it administers, to be presented to the Governing Council at its twelfth special session;

19. *Calls for* the allocation of an appropriate share of the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Environment Programme;

20. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which underlined the need to consider the adequate reflection of all administrative and management costs of the Environment Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget, looks forward to the implementation of the requests of the General Assembly to the United Nations Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the effective delivery of necessary services to the United Nations Environment Programme and the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

21. *Takes note* of General Assembly resolution 65/162 of 20 December 2010, by which the General Assembly called for increased support for strengthening the human, financial and programmatic capacities of all regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of its budget and programme of work, and requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to review the needs and potential of such offices in assisting countries in mainstreaming their environmental priorities and maintaining the strategic presence of the Programme at the national and regional levels, with the results of the review to be submitted to the Governing Council at its twelfth special session for its consideration;

22. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined programme of work and budget with a reduced share of the Environment Fund for post costs and an increased share for non-post costs for the biennium 2014–2015 that clearly prioritizes the application of the resources of the Environment Fund for consideration and approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session;

23. *Also requests* the Executive Director to prepare, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a medium-term strategy for the period 2014–2017 with a clearly defined vision, clearly defined objectives, priorities and impact measures and a robust mechanism for review by Governments, for approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session.

7th meeting
24 February 2011

[26] UNEP/GC.26/INF/21 and Corr.1 (reissued for technical reasons).

Decision 26/10: Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions,[27]

Recalling the authority vested in the Executive Director, with the approval of the Governing Council, to establish trust funds within the framework of the Environment Fund for specified purposes consistent with the policies, aims and activities of the United Nations Environment Programme, as provided for in Article V of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, in addition to all other relevant policies and procedures promulgated by the Secretary-General regarding the operation of trust funds,

I

Trust funds in support of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme

1. *Notes* and approves the establishment of the following trust funds since the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council:

A. Technical cooperation trust funds

(a) RED – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Programme of Work and Responsibilities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, which was established in 2009 with no expiry date;

(b) ESS – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation by the United Nations Environment Programme of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EBA);

(c) TPL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Financing of Professional Officers by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), which was established in 2009 with no expiry date;

2. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds subject to the Executive Director receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or donors:

B. General trust funds

(a) AML – General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

(b) CWL – General Trust Fund for the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

(c) MCL – General Trust Fund in support of Activities on Mercury and its Compounds, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

(d) WPL – General Trust Fund to Provide Support to the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme Office and to Promote its Activities, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

[27] UNEP/GC.26/14/Rev.2.

C. Technical cooperation trust funds

(a) BPL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Belgium (financed by the Government of Belgium), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

(b) GWL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Support to the Global International Global Waters Projects (financed by the Government of Finland), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

(c) REL – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Promotion of Renewable Energy in the Mediterranean Region (financed by the Government of Italy), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

II

Trust funds in support of regional seas programmes, conventions, protocols and special funds

3. *Notes* and approves the establishment of the following technical cooperation trust fund since the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council: EAP – Multi-Donor Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan, which was established in 2011 with no expiry date;

4. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds subject to the Executive Director receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or contracting parties:

A. General trust funds

(a) BEL – General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

(b) BGL – General Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget for the Biosafety Protocol, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

(c) BHL – Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities of the Biosafety Protocol, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

(d) BYL – General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

(e) BZL – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

(f) CRL – Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

(g) ESL – Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

(h) MEL – Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

(i) MSL – Trust Fund for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

(j) MVL – General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions in Support of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

(k) PNL – General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of the Northwest Pacific Region, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

(l) ROL – General Trust Fund for the Operational Budget of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

B. Technical cooperation trust funds

(a) BIL – Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties, in particular the Least Developed and the Small Island Developing States among Them, and Parties with Economies in Transition (Biosafety Protocol), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

(b) RVL – Special Trust Fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013;

(c) VBL – Voluntary Trust Fund to Facilitate the Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities in the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2013.

7th meeting
24 February 2011

Decision 26/11: Enhanced coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in enhanced coordination and collaboration across the United Nations system to achieve greater coherence in environmental activities,

Recalling its decision SS.XI/3, on enhanced coordination across the United Nations system, including the Environment Management Group,

Recalling also the Joint Inspection Unit report on the environmental profile of the United Nations system organizations and their in-house environmental management policies and practices,[28]

Welcoming the efforts of the Executive Director, including in his capacity as Chair of the Environment Management Group, and those of its members in promoting cooperation across the United Nation system on environmental activities,

Welcoming in particular the progress made in the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme as presented by the Executive Director,[29] and in that regard expressing satisfaction with the establishment of a joint working group, as described in the memorandum,

[28] JIU/REP/2010/1.

[29] UNEP/GC.26/INF/9/Add.1.

Expressing appreciation for the progress report prepared under the guidance of the senior officials of the Environment Management Group at their sixteenth meeting and as presented by the Executive Director,[30]

Commending the Group on its progress in facilitating cooperation across the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the environmental agenda,

Welcoming in particular the Group's contribution to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity[31] and its follow-up decision to continue its support for the implementation of the biodiversity agenda across the United Nations system,

1. *Supports* the continued efforts by the Group to mainstream environmental considerations in activities at the programme, management and operational levels in close cooperation with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its subsidiary bodies;

2. *Encourages* the Group to continue to promote coherence in programming environmental activities in the United Nations system, including by mainstreaming environmental concerns into sectoral programmes, through such measures as the following:

(a) Contribution to the international agenda on biodiversity, including implementation of the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting;

(b) Preparation of a United Nations system-wide contribution to the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

(c) Contribution by the United Nations system to the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, including all five themes for the session;

(d) Preparation of a contribution by the United Nations system, identifying existing studies on the green economy, to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

3. *Also encourages* the Group to continue supporting the implementation of the United Nations climate-neutral strategy and advancing the sustainability of policies, management practices and operations in the United Nations system, including sustainable procurement, and the establishment of and agreement to put in place a process for environmental impact assessment and the use of environmental and social safeguards in respect of projects taken up directly by the organizations of the United Nations system;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director in his capacity as Chair of the Group to provide a progress report on the Group's work to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twelfth special session;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide a progress report on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twelfth special session;

6. *Urges* the United Nations Environment Programme to consider using the Poverty and Environment Initiative as a model for future collaboration with the United Nations Development

[30] UNEP/GC.26/15, annex.

[31] "Advancing the biodiversity agenda – a UN system-wide contribution to the biodiversity agenda", report by the Environment Management Group, available on the Group's website at www.unemg.org.

Programme and with other United Nations agencies, where relevant, building on the comparative advantages of each organization.

7th meeting
24 February 2011

Decision 26/12: Enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster

The Governing Council,

Recalling chapter 19 of Agenda 21[32] and Governing Council decisions 18/12 of 26 May 1995, 18/32 of 25 May 1995, 19/13 of 7 February 1997, SS.V/5 of 22 May 1998, 20/22 of 4 February 1999, 20/23 and 20/24 of 4 February 1999, 21/3, 21/4, 21/5 and 21/6 of 9 February 2001, SS.VII/3 of 15 February 2002, 22/4 of 7 February 2003, 23/9 of 25 February 2005, 24/3 of 9 February 2007 and 25/5 of 20 February 2009 concerning global policies related to chemicals management,

Recalling also decisions BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1 and SC.Ex-1/1, adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, respectively, at the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to those three conventions,

Welcoming the progress achieved in enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster, implementing the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the negotiations on a global legally binding instrument on mercury, the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes, the Global Chemicals Outlook process, and the steps taken by the United Nations Environment Programme to address the global challenges posed by chemicals to human health and the environment,

Stressing that the future process to enhance cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster as proposed in the present decision should complement and build on the review of the process of enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions called for in decisions BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1 and SC.Ex-1/1, and is intended to be a broader and longer-term process,

Noting the objectives set at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and confirmed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, and the need to review the objectives in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012,

Noting also that further action may be needed to strengthen the sound management of chemicals and wastes globally up to 2020 and beyond,

Taking note that the objective of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management is that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, and that further

[32] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

action might need to be taken beyond that date to work towards enhancing the implementation of that objective at the global, regional and, in particular, national levels,

Taking note also of the initial analysis on further enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster by the United Nations Environment Programme[33] and of the need and opportunities for strengthening the continued sound management of chemicals and wastes,

Recognizing that challenges posed by chemicals and wastes are global, enduring and constantly evolving and that they are interrelated with crucial environmental issues such as environment-dependent human health, the health of ecosystems and better ecosystem management, the preservation of biodiversity, and the link between poverty and environment, environmental disasters, climate change and sustainable consumption, thus forming part of the challenges posed to international environmental governance,

Recognizing also that chemicals are integral to sustainable development but that the sound management of chemicals and wastes is not yet fully integrated into sustainable development processes,

Recognizing further the leading role that the United Nations Environment Programme continues to play, working in close cooperation with Governments and other key stakeholders, in developing a global and coordinated approach to coherent chemicals and wastes management,

Having considered the initial analysis by the United Nations Environment Programme of the need and opportunities for strengthening the further sound management of chemicals and wastes,[34]

1. *Underlines* the need for an approach to the sound management of chemicals and wastes at all levels that responds in an effective, efficient, coherent and coordinated manner to new and emerging issues and challenges;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director, working with the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, in addition to other key stakeholders in the area of the sound management of chemicals and wastes at the global level, to continue efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination regarding the chemicals and wastes-related agenda at the national, regional and global levels and to report on progress in those efforts at the meetings of the conferences of the parties to those conventions in 2011;

3. *Invites* those countries that have not ratified the multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals and wastes to do so in an expeditious manner as a contribution to concerted efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to facilitate and support an inclusive, country-driven, consultative process on the challenges to and options for further enhancing cooperation and coordination in the chemicals and wastes cluster in the long term, building on the above-mentioned initial analysis report and the comments received thereon from Governments, relevant intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental stakeholders;

5. *Invites* the participants in the above-mentioned consultative process to take into consideration partnerships between all relevant sectors to build capacities, to ensure adequate technology transfer and to promote the provision of necessary technical and financial resources;

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[33] UNEP/GC.26/16.

[34] Ibid.

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide input to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and to present a progress report on the consultative process to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twelfth special session and a report on the outcome of the consultative process to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-seventh session;

7. *Urges* Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to contribute extrabudgetary resources for the conduct of the process.

7th meeting
24 February 2011

Decision 26/13: Omnibus decision on reports of the Executive Director

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions SS.X/3 of 22 February 2008 on the medium-term strategy for the period 2010–2013, 25/9 of 20 February 2009 on South-South cooperation for achieving sustainable development, and SS.XI/7 of 26 February 2010 on oceans,

Recalling also its decision SS.X/3, which welcomes the United Nations Environment Programme medium-term strategy for the period 2010–2013 and, among other things, encourages the Executive Director to continue to strengthen results-based management in the United Nations Environment Programme,

1. *Takes note* of the reports by the Executive Director[35] summarizing the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme on South-South cooperation for achieving sustainable development and on oceans;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to strengthen results-based management in the United Nations Environment Programme and, wherever possible, to provide an account of relevant activities in a results-based report to the Governing Council on the implementation of the programmes of work and budgets.

7th meeting
24 February 2011

Decision 26/14: Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 23/2 of 25 February 2005 and 24/16 of 9 February 2007 on the updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the main global environmental authority and principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, including global water quality monitoring and assessment,

Reaffirming also the need to strengthen the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, including through the reinforcement of the scientific capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the area of environmental protection,

Recognizing the increased need for reliable and high-quality global water quality data, assessments and indicators in support of decision-making on environment and sustainable development,

[35] UNEP/GC.26/9, UNEP/GC.26/10 and UNEP/GC.26/INF/6/Add.1, respectively.

Acknowledging that the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme is one of the main sources for global water quality data within the United Nations system and provides the evidence-based information on the state and trends of global inland water quality required for the sustainable management of the world's freshwater,

Recognizing the importance of United Nations system initiatives devoted to water research, water resources management, water assessment, education and capacity-building, particularly those led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization or with its involvement, such as the World Water Assessment Programme, the World Water Development Report, the International Hydrological Programme and the UNESCO-IHE Institute of Water Education,

Recognizing also the need to increase the capacity and the number of countries that provide reliable water quality data and information to enhance the usefulness of the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme, both for the users of today and the vast array of potential users of tomorrow as issues of water quality become increasingly important,

1. *Acknowledges* the need to improve the tracking and monitoring of water quality and capacity of developing countries in this field;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to facilitate the further development of the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme to ensure that the Programme provides scientifically credible water quality data that meet the needs of the United Nations:

(a) To inform decision-making by ensuring the integration of water quality data and information into a broad range of issues, from ecosystems and human health to poverty and economic sustainability;

(b) To create a knowledge base for assessing water quality and factors that affect water quality by focusing more on research, indicators and data applications;

(c) To promote access to information by encouraging and facilitating data-sharing, interoperability and standards to create accessible web-based information on water quality;

(d) To strengthen capacity to enhance monitoring programmes and analytical, assessment and research activities for integrated water resource management in developing countries;

(e) To encourage cooperation at the regional level to enhance water monitoring at the global level, to ensure better coordination of the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme with other existing global, regional and national water monitoring systems and other specified water monitoring systems to improve its efficiency and to avoid duplication and ensure data coherence;

3. *Encourages* Governments and other organizations to participate actively in the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme by contributing water quality data and information;

4. *Invites* Governments and others in a position to do so, including the private sector, to provide financial and in-kind support for Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme capacity-building and transfer of technology efforts in developing countries;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-seventh session on the implementation of the present decision.

7th meeting
24 February 2011

Decision 26/15: Strengthening international cooperation on the environmental aspects of emergency response and preparedness

The Governing Council,

Reaffirming its view that there are inherent linkages between environmental, humanitarian and development outcomes, and that there is a need to identify and address environmental risks linked to natural and man-made disasters as defined in subprogramme 2 of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme, on disasters and conflicts,[36]

Welcoming the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the focal point for environment in respect of needs assessments carried out in the United Nations system and within the humanitarian coordination system through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee cluster approach,

Noting with concern the extent to which the current limitations of international emergency response systems could unintentionally amplify the environmental impacts of natural and man-made disasters, and recognizing that greater efforts and support are needed to assist affected countries, upon their request, to respond to and manage environmental risks and impacts,

Acknowledging the need to tackle the underlying factors that contribute to an increased risk of disaster,

Expressing concern at the possible future impacts of climate change, such as increases in the frequency, intensity and unpredictability of extreme hydrological and meteorological events, which could contribute to corresponding increases in the number and scale of disasters and the need for international assistance for prevention, response and recovery,

Taking into account the vulnerability of developing countries, including the most vulnerable, such as small island developing States and least developed countries, to natural hazards and the environmental impacts of natural and man-made disasters, which could undermine the attainment of internationally agreed development goals such as the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/224 of 22 December 1989, on international cooperation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats and in assistance in cases of environmental emergency, and 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and 58/114 of 17 December 2003 on strengthening the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance by the United Nations,

Recalling also its decisions 21/17 of 9 February 2001 and 22/8 of 7 February 2003 on further improvement of environmental emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, response and mitigation,

Noting that the medium-term strategy for the period 2010–2013 identifies disasters and conflicts as one of six cross-cutting thematic priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Welcoming the continued collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, through their Joint Environment Unit, as the principal multilateral tool for mobilizing and coordinating international response to environmental emergencies,

Recalling the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015 adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/195 of 22 December 2005, which outline relevant principles for disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness at all levels,

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[36] UNEP/GC.26/13.

Noting with appreciation the development of specialized expertise within the United Nations Environment Programme on mainstreaming environmental issues in humanitarian operations to minimize possible environmental impacts and ensure that they do no harm with regard to longer-term vulnerability and development,

Recalling also that, while it is a primary responsibility of Governments to establish, where possible, adequate structures, procedures and capacities for responding to environmental risks, preventive action and preparedness should always be prioritized as the means of dealing with such risks stemming from natural and man-made disasters,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) To coordinate, in cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, within the coming 12 months, the preparation of a baseline document on current roles, responsibilities and divisions of labour between international organizations involved in responding to environmental emergencies, identifying key gaps and opportunities;

(b) To facilitate, in cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, a process over the coming three years on the basis of the above-mentioned document to ensure that key organizations involved in responding to environmental emergencies have a clear and mutually agreed understanding of their respective roles and responsibilities in various scenarios;

(c) To contribute to efforts to monitor and evaluate the risks of potential natural and man-made disasters;

2. *Decides*, in cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant actors, to continue to contribute to strengthening the United Nations response mechanism for the coordination and mobilization of international assistance to countries facing environmental risks and impacts from natural and man-made disasters, through, in particular, the disasters and conflicts subprogramme of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the collaborative partnership between the Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to raise awareness of and promote cooperation on the environmental dimensions of natural and man-made disasters and of the environmental implications of humanitarian and other international response;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue, in close cooperation with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other actors, through the implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme, to strengthen integrated approaches to reducing the risk of natural and man-made disasters and adapting to the impacts of climate change;

5. *Invites* Governments, international organizations, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to provide countries, particularly developing countries, with technological support, capacity-building and resources for prevention, preparedness and response;

6. *Invites* Governments to provide adequate support, including financial resources, for the effective mainstreaming of environmental needs in humanitarian response planning and operations and to provide in kind resources, including seconded personnel, to the United Nations Environment Programme and for the collaborative partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to enable them efficiently to assist countries, in particular developing countries;

7. *Also invites* Governments to improve the linkages and coordination between emergency response, early recovery and development actors from the onset of emergency response;

8. *Further invites* Governments to improve the involvement of local and regional actors in prevention, preparedness and response to the environmental aspects of natural and man-made disasters in consultation, as appropriate, with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other relevant actors;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to bring the outcomes of the forthcoming ninth meeting of the international Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies to the attention of the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session;

10. *Also requests* the Executive Director to organize, in consultation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and other relevant partners and within available resources, regular expert meetings on environmental emergencies to promote the application of voluntary guidelines for environmental emergencies among member States;

11. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations, international financial institutions and relevant stakeholders in a position to do so to contribute to the Trust Fund for Environmental Emergencies of the United Nations Environment Programme to support developing countries in building their capacity to prevent, respond effectively to and manage the environmental impacts and risks of natural and man-made disasters.

7th meeting
24 February 2011

Decision 26/16: Promoting South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development

The Governing Council,

Recognizing that biodiversity is a key social, environmental, economic, financial, cultural and strategic asset for developing countries and that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is critical for sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Recalling the outcomes of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation held in Nairobi in December 2009,

Recalling also resolution 64/1 of 6 October 2009, in which the General Assembly describes South-South cooperation as an important element of international cooperation for development that offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development and emphasizes that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but is complementary to, North-South cooperation,

Recalling further the Nusa Dua Declaration adopted by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2010, which acknowledges that biodiversity is at the core of human existence,[37]

Recalling its decisions 24/12 and 25/9 on South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development,

Highlighting that South-South and triangular cooperation with the support and partnership of developed countries leads to increased ownership of projects by developing countries and facilitates cost-effective and culturally and socially appealing solutions,

Reiterating the role of regional and interregional initiatives and of the United Nations as a catalyst and facilitator for South-South cooperation,

[37] UNEP/GCSS.XI/11, decision SS.XI/9.

Recalling decision IX/25 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in which developing-country parties are encouraged to engage in South-South cooperation on the issue of biodiversity, complemented and supported by North-South cooperation, and to incorporate biodiversity concerns into regional and subregional cooperation agreements and associated activities and parties are encouraged to establish, as appropriate, multi-stakeholder collaborative partnerships to address biodiversity concerns at the regional, subregional, national and subnational levels,

Acknowledging the progress by the Group of 77 and China in preparing a multi-year plan of action for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development as a complement to the Development Platform for the South launched in June 2008 at the twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, held in Yamoussoukro,

Recalling decision X/23 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in which the Conference of the Parties welcomes the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development as adopted by the Group of 77 and China at the South-South Cooperation Forum held on 17 October 2010[38] and requests the Working Group on Review of Implementation, at its fourth meeting, to examine and further develop the Plan for consideration at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, taking into account synergies with, among others, the biodiversity technology initiative and framework for capacity-building for the integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development being developed under the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Executive Director on South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development;[39]

2. *Looks forward* to the finalization of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development;

3. *Welcomes* the offer by the Republic of Korea, through its National Institute of Biological Resources, to host an expert meeting in early 2011 to discuss further modalities for South-South and triangular cooperation and a road map towards the possible adoption of a plan at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

4. *Encourages* member States and other Governments to contribute further to the development of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development;

5. *Invites* parties, other Governments, regional organizations and their secretariats, international organizations, United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Environment Programme, Biodiversity Liaison Group members, the Rio conventions, donors, indigenous peoples' organizations, non-governmental organizations and centres of excellence to contribute to the further development of the Multi-Year Plan of Action;

6. *Welcomes* the consideration by the Global Environment Facility of the establishment of a South-South biodiversity cooperation trust fund for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, based on voluntary contributions;

[38] UNEP/CBD/COP/10/18/Add.1/Rev.1.

[39] UNEP/GC.26/9.

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-seventh session on the contributions of the United Nations Environment Programme to promoting South-South cooperation.

7th meeting
24 February 2011

Decision 26/17: Provisional agendas, dates and venues for the twelfth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and 53/242 of 28 July 1999,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 47/202 A (paragraph 17) of 22 December 1992, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 56/242 of 24 December 2001, 57/283 B (paragraphs 9–11 of section II) of 15 April 2003, 61/236 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2006, 62/225 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2007, 63/248 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 24 December 2008, 64/230 (paragraph 9 of section II A) of 22 December 2009 and 65/245 (paragraph 10 of section II A) of 24 December 2010,

Recalling further its own decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002,

I

Twelfth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

1. *Decides* to hold the twelfth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in 2012 from 20 to 22 February 2012;[40]

2. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the twelfth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of work:
   (a) Adoption of the agenda;
   (b) Organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Emerging policy issues: environment and development.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report.
7. Closure of the session.

[40] The venue of the twelfth special session will be decided in consultation with the Bureau of the Governing Council and the member States.

II

Twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

3. *Decides* that, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its rules of procedure, the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum shall be held in Nairobi from 18 to 22 February 2013;

4. *Also decides* that informal consultations between heads of delegations should be held on the afternoon of the day before the opening of the twenty-seventh session;

5. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of work:
   (a) Election of officers;
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
   (a) State of the environment;
   (b) Emerging policy issues;
   (c) International environmental governance;
   (d) Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system on environmental matters;
   (e) Coordination and cooperation with major groups;
   (f) Environment and development.
5. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council.
6. Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2014–2015 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters.
7. Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum:
   (a) Thirteenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;
   (b) Twenty-eighth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report.
10. Closure of the session.

7th meeting
24 February 2011

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